

**CURRENT MEDICAL REFERENCES**—Edited by Paul J. Sanazaro, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco. Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, 1959. 535 pages, \$3.50.

The mass of medical literature is now so great and the mazes are so complex that we have presented to us an entire book of some 535 pages which is in toto a bibliography of medical references—along with a succinct description or evaluation of each reference.

This book is the latest of the concise, complete, inexpensive paperbacks published during the past few years and kept current by Lange Medical Publications. Like the previous volumes this reviewer has seen, this book will be of greatest value to residents, interns and students. However, the practitioner can also find it useful for his medical bag or handy book shelf. The editors and contributors are chiefly from the University of California Medical School and are to be commended on the excellence of their selections.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

\* \* \*

**MOLECULES AND MENTAL HEALTH**—Edited by Frederic A. Gibbs, M.D., Professor of Neurology, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago. Published for the Brain Research Foundation by J. B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania, 1959. 189 pages, \$4.75.

This potent little book contains the papers and following discussions which were presented at the Brain Research Foundation on two separate one-day conferences. The first part of the book deals with "Amines in Relation to Brain Function and Behavior." Dr. L. G. Abood presents in the first chapter some current work on ceruloplasmin and gives information about factors influencing the levels in humans. Dr. Robert G. Heath also describes data on ceruloplasmin concerning its effect in schizophrenic patients; he gives further information on Taraxein, but this substance continues to be very elusive, both as to its physiological effects and its chemical composition. These manuscripts are presented in an attempt to bring a little more light into the area of physiologically active blood proteins and point out the difficulties of studies with these substances.

Dr. A. Hoffer has a chapter on the "Mode of Action of Ergot Hallucinogens" and bases his interpretations on plasma adrenochrome levels. However, Dr. Fred Elmadjian discusses "Excretion and Metabolism of Epinephrine and Norepinephrine in Man" and points out that his studies do not show adrenochrome to be a normal metabolite of epinephrine. Thus, the great value of this conference is shown in that men with opposing views have been brought together for discussion.

"Tryptophane Metabolism in Schizophrenics and in Controls" is described by Dr. E. A. Zeller. In the discussion to this paper, Dr. S. S. Kety reports opposing results for the excretion of 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid in schizophrenics after tryptophane feeding, and explains the difference on urine volume and vitamin deficiency.

Dr. Carl C. Pfeiffer presents a paper on "Acetylcholine and Behavior" which contains some interesting studies on the stimulating effects of dimethylaminoethanol in normal and schizophrenic men.

The second conference on the "ACTH Treatment of Hypsarrhythmia" was formulated because of the report of one man, Dr. Lucien Sorel of Belgium. Dr. Sorel presents the first paper, a study of 25 children, in which 11 children were treated with ACTH. He states, "all except two showed improvement, some remarkably." Dr. Frederick Stamps in another chapter reports on a group of children treated in this country with ACTH, using the Sorel method, and 20 of

29 patients showed marked improvement. As an outcome of the first ACTH report, Dr. Niels Low reports a further chapter on studies using cortisone and ACTH for the treatment of hypsarrhythmia.

The "Neurological Status of Patients with Hypsarrhythmia" is examined by Dr. Peter Kellaway with a view to showing the origin of the seizure discharge. Also, "Neuropathologic Findings in Three Cases of Infantile Spasms" is given by Dr. Charles M. Poser. Three additional chapters are devoted to a discussion of ACTH and hypsarrhythmia in relation to other brain disorders. These clinical reports on the use of ACTH are so dramatic that anyone who treats children will be interested in reading these preliminary studies.

This is a desirable book for the research scientist; in addition, it has particular value for those who wish to be at the frontier of our knowledge on brain function. The comments are perhaps the most pertinent feature of this book since they help to evaluate and elucidate the information presented.

GRANT SLATER, Ph.D.

\* \* \*

**PEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY**—Daniel Stowens, M.D., Pathologist, Children's Hospital Society of Los Angeles; Associate Professor of Pathology, University of Southern California; Diplomate, American Boards of Pediatrics and Pathology. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1959. 676 pages, \$20.00.

Pediatric Pathology is important not only because of its concern with the many lesions that are peculiar to children, but also because it provides an opportunity to observe the beginnings or modified versions of many diseases that affect adults. It is remarkable that so few books deal with tissue structure related to disease in the extremely important period of rapid development represented by childhood.

Dr. Daniel Stowens has had a unique opportunity through his past relationship with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, as Registrar of the American Registry of Pediatric Pathology, to collect material for this book and to make use of the photographic facilities of the Institute. The result has been a beautifully illustrated compendium of information centering around gross and microscopical tissue changes in childhood disease.

In general this survey is comprehensive. It includes a good discussion of conditions peculiar to the newborn. There are statistics relating to growth and development, with a good discussion of the significance of the size of the body and its organs. There are numerous references, classified as to general subject, but titles are not provided and these contributions are not specifically identified in the text. An appendix presents an analysis of 10,000 cases from the files of the American Registry of Pediatric Pathology, showing the scope and relative incidence of diseases that affect children and are recognized by pathologists.

Sections that serve particularly well to supplement other works on pathologic anatomy are those on developmental disturbances, infectious disease, central nervous system lesions, bone and skin pathology. One may be disappointed at times that presentations, such as that of glomerulonephritis, are principally descriptions of lesions, without much discussion of what the observations in children may mean with respect to our understanding of other manifestations of the same or similar diseases. The author, however, has written speculative sections upon such subjects as sudden unexpected death, hyaline membrane disease, and the nature of tumors.

This is an important book, and will be a valuable reference work for pediatricians, pathologists and others concerned with anatomic changes in disease.

ALVIN J. COX, M.D.